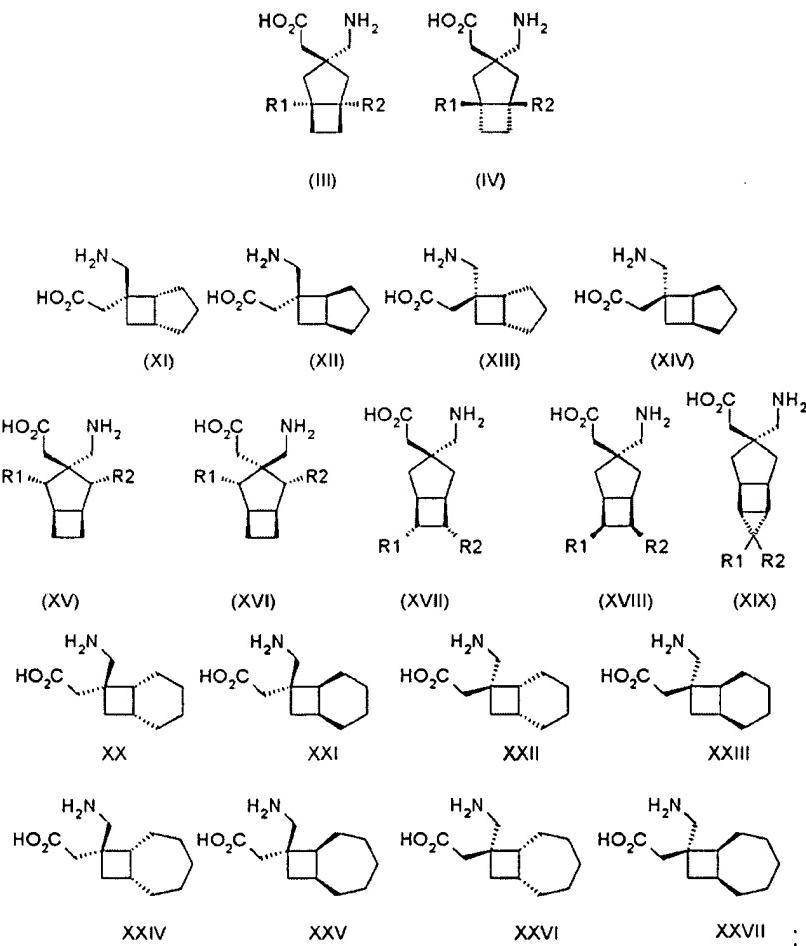


IN THE CLAIMS

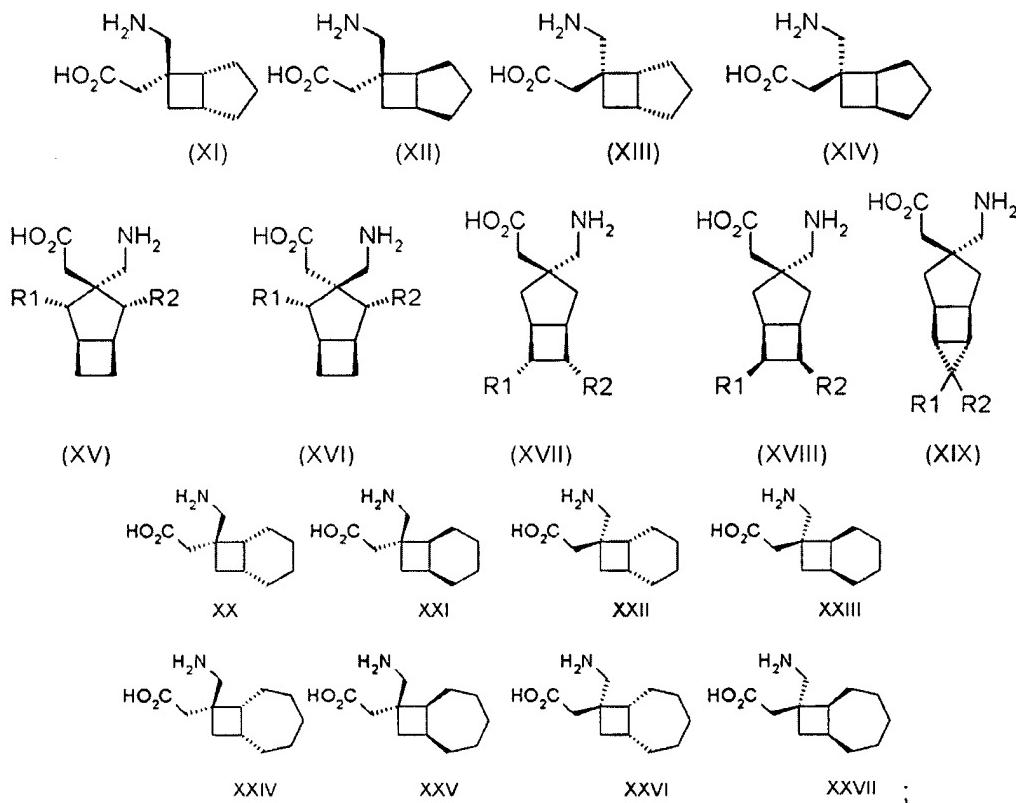
1. Canceled.
2. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8 wherein administration is on an as needed basis.
3. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 8 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from the group:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative salt thereof, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from the group H, straight or branched alkyl of 1-6

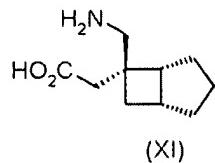
carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of from 3-6 carbon atoms, phenyl and benzyl, subject to the proviso that, except in the case of a tricyclooctane compound of formula (XVIII) (XIX), R¹ and R² are not simultaneously hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from the group:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative salt thereof, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from the group H, straight or branched alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of from 3-6 carbon atoms, phenyl and benzyl, subject to the proviso that, except in the case of a tricyclooctane compound of formula (XVIII) (XIX), R¹ and R² are not simultaneously hydrogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is [(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid or (2S, 4S)-4-(3-Chloro-phenoxy)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is [(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating premature ejaculation comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of an alpha-2-delta ligand, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative salt thereof, to a patient in need of such treatment.

9. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in any one of claims 3-8, where administration is on an as needed basis.

10.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A The method as recited in claim 8
wherein the alpha -2-ligand has a binding affinity of less than 100nM.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method as recited in claim 9
wherein the alpha -2-ligand has a binding affinity of less than 100nM.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method as recited in claim 8
wherein the alpha -2-ligand has a binding affinity of less than 50nM.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method as recited in claim 9
wherein the alpha -2-ligand has a binding affinity of less than 50nM.